

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Glendive Water Supply Safe for Consumption
Once people flush the pipes in their houses, water is safe to drink.

Glendive – The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) today announced the Glendive municipal drinking water supply is now meeting standards set by the federal Safe Drinking Water Act. The water supply was contaminated after oil spilled into the Yellowstone River on January 17 after the Poplar Pipeline broke six miles upriver from the water supply intake.

Elevated levels of volatile organic compounds, primarily benzene, were found in the drinking water supply earlier this week. The maximum contaminant level for benzene is 5 parts per billion, or 5 micrograms per liter. The highest level tested in the water supply was 15 parts per billion. The Centers for Disease Control has said that short-term exposure at this level does not cause long-term health effects.

Unified Command reminds people to flush the pipes in their homes before drinking the water. Once that is complete, the water is safe to drink.

Information on flushing the pipes in homes is being distributed around town at various locations. Instructions are online at www.poplarresponse.com and on the EPA and DEQ websites.

"The primary concern has been restoring Glendive's drinking water supply to meet safe drinking water standards," said Tom Livers, DEQ director. "The response team has been working hard to restore water and help the community get its water back."

The Unified Command was established in response to a release from the Poplar Pipeline System owned by Bridger Pipeline, LLC. The command is operating out of the Dawson County Disaster and Emergency Service Center in Glendive. Officials believe up to 960 barrels of crude oil (approximately 40,000 gallons) leaked from the Poplar Pipeline where the line crosses the Yellowstone River upstream from Glendive.

Information and updates on the Poplar Pipeline response can found at www.poplarresponse.com, deq.mt.gov/yellowstonespill2015, and epaosc.org.

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